

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-23 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are amended, and claim 23 is added. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 2, 2004.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowicki et al. (U.S. 5,285,189) in view of Rea et al. (U.S. 6,300,867), and Whiteing et al. (U.S. 3,840,850);

Claims 3, 4 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowicki et al. in view of Rea et al., Whiteing et al. and Bankart et al. (U.S. 6,609,419);

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nowicki et al. in view of Rea et al., Whiteing et al. and McClelland (U.S. 5,963,128);

Claims 7, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McClelland in view of Rea et al. and Ernst (U.S. 6,469,989); and

Claims 9, 10 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McClelland in view of Rea et al., Ernst, and Bankart et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a tire air pressure detecting device for monitoring a tire air pressure, and in addition to transmitting the transmission instruction signal received by said auxiliary receiving means, the main transmitting means also transmits the air pressure signal repetitively at a predetermined constant frequency, the predetermined constant frequency of transmitting the air pressure signal varying depending on a vehicle speed.

Support for the above feature in claim 1 can be found in the specification, for example, in paragraphs [0038] and [0039]. See also FIG. 5, which shows transmitting the transmission

instruction signal received by said auxiliary receiving means, the main transmitting means also transmitting the air pressure signal repetitively at a predetermined constant frequency.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nowicki et al., Rea et al., and Whiteing et al.

For example, Whiteing et al. merely discloses a transmission frequency which varying proportionally to the velocity of the moving vehicle.

In addition, neither Nowicki et al. nor Whiteing et al. suggests the main transmitting means transmitting both the transmission instruction signal received by said auxiliary receiving means, and also transmitting the air pressure signal repetitively at a predetermined constant frequency, the predetermined constant frequency of transmitting the air pressure signal varying depending on a vehicle speed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nowicki et al., Rea et al., and Whiteing et al., at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 7

In addition, independent claim 7 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a tire air pressure detecting device for monitoring a tire air pressure, including a receiving time interval (Tr) is an interval between successive instances during which said

receiving means receives the air pressure signal from said transmitting means, a receiving time (Hr) is a time during which said receiving means receives the air pressure signal from said transmitting means, and a transmitting time interval (Tt) is an interval during which said transmitting means transmits the air pressure signal to the vehicle body, the receiving time interval (Tr), the receiving time (Hr), and the transmitting time interval (Tt) being related to each other by a formula $Tr > Hr > Tt$.

Support the above features in claim 7 can be found in the specification, for example in paragraphs [0080] and [0083]. See also FIGS. 7 and 8.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in independent claim 7 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including McClelland, Rea et al., and Ernst.

For example, Ernst column 8, lines 39-50 merely discloses an interval for receiving time interval equal to (rather than greater than) the transmitting time interval.

Thus, Ernst fails to make up for the deficiencies of McClelland and Rea et al., at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that claim 23 has been added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All of the dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

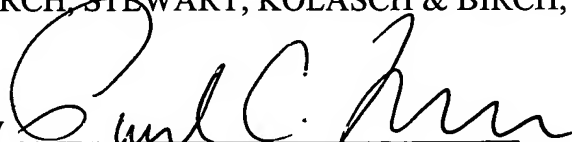
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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